

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A remote server management controller that snoops data from a communication bus, the remote server management controller comprising:
  - 5 a FIFO that is adapted to store data snooped from the communication bus; and
  - an embedded bus master that is operatively connected to the communication bus, the embedded bus master being adapted to take control of the communication bus responsive to a signal that the FIFO has become filled to a predetermined level to prevent the FIFO from being overflowed with snooped data while snooped data stored in the FIFO continues to be processed.
- 10 2. The remote server management controller of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a passive throttling register that stores a value; and
  - wherein the embedded bus master takes control of the communication bus by reading the value and preventing communication on the communication bus for a time period that
- 15 3. The remote server management controller of claim 1, wherein the communication bus is a PCI bus.
- 20 4. The remote server management controller of claim 1, wherein the value is a number of PCI clock cycles.

5. The remote server management controller of claim 1, wherein the embedded bus master is adapted to take control of the communication bus by initiating a PCI read transaction on the passive throttling register.

5 6. The remote server management controller of claim 1, wherein the value is stored in the passive throttling register when the remote server management controller is initialized.

10 7. The remote server management controller of claim 1, wherein the value is updated periodically.

8. The remote server management controller of claim 1, wherein the value is proportional to a volume of traffic on the communication bus.

15 9. A managed server, comprising:

a video controller that is operatively connected to a communication bus; and

a remote server management controller that is connected to the communication bus and adapted to snoop data that is intended for the video controller from the communication bus, the remote server management controller comprising:

a FIFO that is adapted to store data snooped from the communication bus; and

20 an embedded bus master that is operatively connected to the communication bus,

the embedded bus master being adapted to take control of the communication bus

responsive to a signal that the FIFO has become filled to a predetermined level to

prevent the FIFO from being overflowed with snooped data while snooped data stored in the FIFO continues to be processed.

10. The managed server of claim 9, further comprising:

a passive throttling register that stores a value; and

wherein the embedded bus master takes control of the communication bus by reading the value and preventing communication on the communication bus for a time period that corresponds to the value.

11. The managed server of claim 9, wherein the communication bus is a PCI bus.

12. The managed server of claim 9, wherein the value is a number of PCI clock cycles.

13. The managed server of claim 9, wherein the embedded bus master is adapted to take control of the communication bus by initiating a PCI read transaction on the passive throttling register.

14. The managed server of claim 9, wherein the value is stored in the passive throttling register when the remote server management controller is initialized.

15. The managed server of claim 9, wherein the value is updated periodically.

16. The managed server of claim 9, wherein the value is proportional to a volume of traffic on the communication bus.

17. A method of passively throttling a communication bus, comprising the acts of:

snooping a communication bus;

storing data snooped from the communication bus in a storage device;

determining if the storage device is filled to a predetermined level;

preventing further transfers of data on the communication bus responsive to the act of

determining if the storage device is filled to a predetermined level.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the acts of:

storing a value in a register;

reading the value; and

wherein the act of preventing further transfers of the specific type of data is performed for a time period that corresponds to the value.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the act of reading the value comprises the act of initiating a PCI read transaction on the register.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein the recited acts are performed in the recited order.